

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE**7 FEBRUARY 2006****Approved 04/10/2006**

PRESENT: Members Charles Kimball, Peg Pinkham, Kevin Zukas, Don Gates, Joe Delahunty, Marc Wood, Mike Miller and Audrey Karamourtopoulos. The minutes of the meeting were taken by Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

School Board Members present were Chris Kenneway, Joe Dreyer, Marian Guidoboni and Lisa Begley. Superintendent office representative was Business Manager Martha Williamson

Also present were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Peter Bolduc and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. Members of the public were Bill and Noreen Johnson, Thom Roy, Kathy Arsenault, Matthew Thomas, Janice O'Brien, Kenn Jones, Larry Lubowski, Renee King, Deb Genthner, Kyle Murdock and Chief Neil Janvrin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Kimball. A motion was made by Pinkham and seconded by Gates to accept the minutes of February 7, 2006 meeting. Miller found an error in the minutes on Article 6. His vote was a nay on this Article and the minutes reflected he voted yeah. This was an error in the minutes which will be corrected. All in favor to accept the minutes as corrected except Zukas abstained from voting.

Kimball wanted to start by reading the warrant draft dated 2-7-06 on page 5. Members reviewed Town budget and warrant information.

The Public Hearing was then called to order at 7:30 PM by Kimball. There were handouts of the 2-7-06 warrant draft and MS-7 budget form available for everyone to have for reference.

The following Articles were read by Budget Committee members and open for any discussion to the public:

Article 5-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000. for the purchase of land to protect Town's rural character and natural resources by conserving land. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. 2/3 ballot vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 6-To hear the report of the Budget Committee and take any action the town deems necessary. There was no further discussion.

Article 7-To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for general municipal operations, exclusive of all other warrant articles. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommended \$2,339,946. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 8-To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate sum of \$25,000. for the purchase of playground equipment and installation for completion of the playground project at Fremont Memorial Fields and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$12,900. from the Playground Equipment & Construction at Memorial Ball field Capital Reserve Fund and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$5,000 from the Playground Special Revenue Fund. The Selectmen and

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Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 9-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in existing Capital Reserve Funds for the following purchases: a) Police cruiser \$10,000. b) Radio Communication Equipment \$5,000. c) Fire Truck \$12,500 d) Highway Equipment \$7,500 e) Highway Building \$15,000. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. The only question from the public was clarification of the \$12,500 fire truck if it was for the total purchase of a truck, which was not, it is the money put aside each year toward the purchase of a new truck.

Article 10-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to place in existing Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 11-To vote to create a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of renovating the Fremont Town Hall and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be placed in said fund. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 12-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,806.to purchase and equip a new utility vehicle for the Fremont Police Department and to authorize the withdrawal of \$5,000 from the OHRV Special Revenue Fund to offset the purchase price. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 13-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,412 to purchase equipment to supplement the OHRV patrol, including full face helmets, rider safety goggles, ATV safety goggles, safety gloves, point blank vests, radio com ports, and further to authorize the withdrawal of \$3,412 from the Police Department OHRV Equipment Special Revenue Fund for said purchase. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 14-To raise \$61,643 to shim and overlay paving and do finish shoulder work on 2,000 feet of each of the following roads: North Road, South Road, and Sandown Road. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 15-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to begin a Public Health Mosquito control program and fund the program for one year. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. One question that was asked was if this will be allowed in conservation lands. Selectmen probably won't need to go into these areas. There is nothing in conservation easement that would stop them from doing that if it is necessary. A good part of this plan is testing to see whether the mosquitoes carry the virus and also where the larvae grow and reproduce. There is a possibility the state might offer matching funds. A permit has to be applied for by the Town before anything can be started. There was no further discussion.

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Article 16-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 in support of the Community Services Council of NH. This would be a new donation for Fremont. The NH Helpline (800 line) provides assistance and referral information. Last year there were 31 residents referred and helped from Fremont. Matthew Thomas asked how people would find out about these agencies to be able to use them. Carlson volunteered to put into the Town Newsletter and provide the list for the Towns residents. Also maybe having a social service section of the newsletter would help. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required.

Article 17-To raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,565 to purchase a Kustom Signal Speed Monitoring Trailer. This purchase to be offset by acceptance of a grant from the NH Highway Safety Council in the amount of \$3,783. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required. There was no further discussion.

Article 23-To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. The Selectmen are still considering adding this warrant article to establish a Town Trust Fund for repairs to Town Buildings. This fund would contain \$10,000. and used by the Selectmen if a necessary or emergency repair came up that could not be funded by existing operating budgets. EX. Well pump replacement or furnace repair. A motion was made by Zukas to accept article 23 as written. All were in favor.

Articles 5 through Article 23 will be voted on at the Town Meeting.

The Public Hearing was recessed until Thursday night February 9th at 7:30 PM.

Pinkham called the work session to order at 8:10 PM. A handout was passed out by Pinkham on the changes to the School Budget that had already been presented. These changes came to attention of the School Board that there was a discrepancy in reported tuition amount. Sanborn tuition will be revised per student to \$13,866.70 which is the correct amount?

Audrey questioned the Timberlane School amount which was the same as Sanborn School. Williamson said that Timberlane presents their figures late so the state takes the same amount as Sanborn. If this amount is wrong the parents are liable for the difference.

Pinkham stated these figures are guaranteed maximums, if something is amended and budget is less, this figure would go down.

Other changes in budget as presented were explained. Any other questions for Williamson were asked by Pinkham. Williamson was thanked and left the meeting. Both representatives from the Superintendent's office will be here on February 14th.

Pinkham asked how the committee wanted to proceed from here. We have reviewed budget in detail line item by line item and all the questions should be answered by now.

A question on page 93 was asked by Miller in #4 tuition, \$387,077 or .97 % increase without any change in the amount of students. Why is this an increase? The answer to this question will be e-mailed by Pinkham.

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Delahunty exclaimed that with \$126,000 increases that were contractual maybe other issues would have been changed. Pinkham stated this has to be approved and that the information was presented as soon as they received the figures. Pinkham asked if the board wants more time to go over things.

Miller commented that the amount is not contractual. We have to approve something for tuition not necessarily that number. Pinkham with number of students enrolled this contractual number is tabulated. If more students are enrolled they don't know where they'll get the money for this.

There are many ways they could find area to take the money from but didn't want to consider this problem unless it arises. Also the School Board could ask town to appropriate the money.

The School Board is coming in as lean as it can with the budget and they are as accurate as they can be on today's enrollment. They could also have one or 2 students leave the school system.

Wood asked if the enrollment grows a lot wants to know the estimate figures vs the actual figures. Kenneway stated that it has been fairly stable. The trend is listed in the book on Page 12 but only lists elementary grades not high school. Pinkham can get figures for the committee and the actual trend over the past 5 years would be provided. Kimball asked the percentage of dropouts. Begley stated they try to avoid dropouts from occurring and are more likely to put the student on an educational plan and find programs where they can be successful so they won't drop out.

Audrey questioned in regard to tuition money and contract based on projected cost of \$11,750 per student. As the year goes on is there is a mechanism in the contract to go back and change that amount? Miller asked if they were on a default budget what would that number be?

Kenneway stated that a default budget has other items added into that. Sanborn can refuse to give it to us. Miller wanted to know if they do refuse. Kimball asked if they are in a default budget this year. No one knew the answer.

Miller asked why we didn't take all of the money in the impact fee account. Dreyer \$226,000 was in the account and only took \$100,000 because that was what was in the account at the time. Budget committee recommended to the maximum to be used to offset. The School Board doesn't meet until February 24th but they will consider having a meeting before the printing of the Town's Report.

Miller asked is there a contract for \$15,000 for computer contracted services? Pinkham said it is not a written service agreement and that by contracting out we could have better service for less to handle anything that might come up. Miller asked with all the computers in the school how the contract provider could put this together. Pinkham stated with that her knowledge of computers she is able to perform services they need to be done. Laptops: how much each cost and how many were bought?

Pinkham said a lot were gifted to us. Wood asked how much each laptop costs and how many were bought and to see an inventory listing of the type (capacity) of computer and price for each.

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Pinkham any other major areas that may have questions need to be prepped for Thursday. If you need additional information supplied this is the time to ask for it.

Delahunty said we were close to recommending the budget then the Budget Committee is being hit for more money, can some things in the budget really be necessary or are they luxury items that may be able to be taken out of budget? Are we saying Fremont is a wealthy town? Where are we as a Town? Can the Town afford this thought process to continue? With the grant money could the school have updated their existing computers instead they purchased new computers. It is only a 9% increase in budget but from a large number amount.

Pinkham said that when contractual information is brought to the voters does the School Department do a sufficient job for them to get the understanding they need of the issue at hand.

A motion was made by Miller at 9:40 PM and seconded by Gates to recess this meeting to 7:00 pm on Thursday February 9, 2006.

The School Budget will be presented to the public at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at the Town Hall.

The meeting was reopened on Thursday February 9, 2006.

PRESENT: Members Charles Kimball, Kevin Zukas, Joe Delahunty, Don Gates, Mike Miller, Marc Wood, Audrey Karamourtopoulos, and Peg Pinkham. The minutes of the meeting were taken by Selectmen's Clerk Jeanne Nygren.

The School Board Member present was Chris Kenneway.

The Budget Committee opened at 7:35 PM with Pinkham passing out answer sheets of questions asked at the February 7, 2005 meeting. She also let the Committee know that two new high school students have been picked up increasing the 118 students to 120 students for an increase in the tuition budget to attend Sanborn.

The things that have to be met out of the budget are contract items and special education and then other areas have to have the shortfall. Question was asked if this can be passed off to the Fremont students. The tuition amount will remain the same.

Karamourtopoulos asked Pinkham to get the minutes of the School Board Meeting that was held in Kingston where the question was asked about the newspaper comment that Fremont tuition dollars will defray the cost of the new building. The cost per pupil for Sanborn last year \$9243. This year tuition figure is \$11,751 are the tuition costs divided equally amount the 3 towns? With this statement being made and if it is true Karamourtopoulos and other board members decision may change on deciding the line items being reviewed. Pinkham stated that capital costs and operational costs are part of tuition.

Kenneway said all the financial records were provided and have been reviewed. This article is misleading wrong. If there is deception where is it?

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Miller stated Sanborn was sited for not having good record keeping in the past and it was difficult to go over their records.

One other area that is still leaving many unanswered questions is the computer spending. Miller stated that the 10 donated computers under his impression that they were new. Are they used by teachers? Wondering they were expecting to take these home every evening and trying to decipher with significant number of computers 180 between desktops and 85 laptops there are 1 for every 2 students in the school. Are these computers all, or are we getting donated computers that are not worth taking, then why take them. Where did these 10 donated computers come from? It looks like the computer inventory is out of control and there is overspending in this area. Their needs to be some recycled out of their inventory and after these answers are given then the committee will need to look at the \$15,000 line item for computers.

Kenneway stated that the 39 new laptops were bought by the grants and the teachers got these laptops. The intention of this grant was to try to get the elementary computers in line with not being over 5 years old.

Gates asked how do we control the inventory of all of these computers? Maybe these control inventories with a listing sheet being available would be helpful.

The committee went over the impact fees \$124,950 balance as of January 2006. We are projecting another \$100,000 in impact fees and feel it is a safe projection.

Wood recommended going over the budget line item by line item to find out what lines might be recommending on changing so the budget can start to be finalized. These lines were discussed in depth for the committee's recommendations.

Delahunty asked if line #2320 the contracted services do we have to pay that amount? Pinkham stated that until Fremont can get into an SAU which might not be until next year this is the way to go for the interim period.

Also Delahunty recommend cutting 1100 Regular Education 5561-30 to cut this line by \$70,506 with cutting 6 students

2150 Speech Pathologist new position. Delahunty wanted one position taken out. Miller wanted to know are we currently not providing the needed services. Wood asked do we need a full time position? Are 3 full time positions consistent with other schools? What is growth in student numbers that Fremont needs this service?

Pinkham remarked there is a significant increase throughout the state in speech pathologists. The pathologist does pre testing, testing and therapy. There are definite improvements needed in services provided. The new one will work directly with kids. Kenneway said. The teacher in the classroom can't work one on one with the student. The pathologist looks in on the classroom to see where the need is with the student. Delahunty said that we currently meeting the needs of the students with the two pathologists now.

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2210-Improvement of Instruction-Delahunty going over the past historical data amounts that were budgeted were not used in full. He recommended reducing the figure by \$30,000. Pinkham stated that this is contracted. Delahunty said that it was also in the past but the allotted amounts were never used.

2220-Educational Media. Delahunty recommended reducing the bottom line by \$10,000 to \$174,312.

2700-Student Transportation. Delahunty stated curriculum transport again historically never spent figure on that line and wants to cut from this line. Pinkham will get planned trips and transportation and as of now a little over \$13,000 has been spent. This program was first initiated last year.

Miller remarked that parents were asked to pay but they don't want to pay or do more fund raisers. This was then shifted to the tax payer paying for this. He is in favor of cutting this line and cut back on this.

Kenneway remarked that students go to museums, natural history, planetarium, Capitol State House, Museum of Fine Arts, science museum and the children's museum in the past. Karamourtopoulos felt this was valuable because many parents don't or can't take the time or can't afford to do this with their children.

There were questions raised about the tutor positions and Pinkham will get more information regarding this.

With these items having been discussed a decision to take a vote was decided.

Line 1100-Regular education-A motion was made by Wood to reduce this line by \$70,506 as previously discussed. Miller seconded the vote and all were in favor. This line recommendation will be \$4,106,967.

Line 1200-Special Education- A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$1,464,586. Miller seconded and all were in favor.

Line 1400-Other Programs-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$46,790 and seconded by Zukas. The vote was 5-2 with Pinkham and Gates as negative votes.

Line 2110-Attendance-A motion made by Wood to recommend this line as \$1.00 and seconded by Miller, all were in favor.

Line 2120-Guidance-A motion made by Wood to recommend this line as \$124,730 and seconded by Zukas, all were in favor.

Line 2130-Health-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$40,969 and seconded by Zukas, all were in favor.

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Line 2140-Psychological-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$77,238 and seconded by Zukas, all were in favor.

Line 2150-Speech & Audiology, \$155,278 this line is pending until the questions answers are provided by the School Department.

Line 2160-Physical & Occupational-A motions was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$121,801 and seconded by Zukas, all were in favor.

Line 2210-Improvement of Instruction-A motion was made by Delahunty to cut this line from \$70,630 to \$40,630 seconded by Miller, Karamourtopoulos and Zukas. Negative votes by Wood, Pinkham and Gates. The vote passed 4-3.

Line 2220-Educational Media-A motion was made by Delahunty to recommend cutting this figure from \$184,312 to \$174,312 and seconded by Miller, Wood, Karamourtopoulos and Zukas. The negative votes were made by Gates and Pinkham. This vote was recommended 5-2.

Line 2310-School Board-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$48,449 and seconded by Miller, all were in favor.

Line 2320-Office of Superintendent-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$202,000 and seconded by Miller, all were in favor.

2330-Special Education Administration-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$109,363. and seconded by Pinkham, all were in favor.

2400-School Administration-A motions was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$259,573 and seconded by Miller, all were in favor.

2600-Operation of Plant-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$392,768 and seconded by Zukas, all were in favor.

2700-Student Transportation-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$441,038 and seconded by Zukas, all were in favor.

2900-Support Benefits-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$254,273 and seconded by Miller, all were in favor.

4000-Facilities-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$0 and seconded by Delahunty, all were in favor.

5100-Debt Service-A motion was made by Wood to recommend this line as \$379,750 and seconded by Delahunty, all were in favor.

This concluded the budget until the questions are answered on the speech pathologist that the Budget Committee requested.

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A motion was made by Zukas to recess the meeting to 7:00 PM on Tuesday and seconded by Delahunty at 10:10 PM. The Budget Committee will meet again on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at 7:00 PM. The Public Hearing for presentation of the School Budget will begin at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was reopened on Tuesday February 14, 2006.

PRESENT: Members Charles Kimball, Joe Delahunty, Kevin Zukas, Don Gates, Peg Pinkham, and Mark Wood The minutes of the meeting were taken by Budget Committee Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

The School Board Members present were: Joe Dreyer, Marian Guidoboni, and Chris Kenneway,

The members of the public present were: Mike Nygren, Neil Rowland, and Meredith Bolduc.

The Public Hearing was reopened at 7:30 PM by Kimball.

Kimball asked about the speech pathologist position and the results by the members of the Budget Committee. Pinkham states that a straw vote was done. Kimball wanted to vote again to accept the position 2150-Speech & Audiology as funded \$155,278. Gates seconded the motion.

A question by Delahunty was asked if the contracted services line (5330-00) might need to be decreased. Pinkham replied that this is a part-time position to work 19.5 hours a week in an attempt to get the other 2 positions back down to 40 hours week. Right now the two are working 97.5 hours and they are unable to do their own evaluations and testing. This figure is based on this year's evaluation.

How do you identify a speech problem asked Neil Rowland? Pinkham stated that it is an identified problem.

Does this position have benefits asked Mike Nygren? Pinkham stated no.

The vote to leave line 2150 Speech & Audiology the same as it was \$155,278 was voted. Yeas were Pinkham, Gates, Wood, and Zukas. Delahunty voted nay. Kimball abstained his vote. This line was recommended as it was 4 to 1 vote in favor.

Kimball stated there is no need to vote on the Warrant Article 1 because there is no money figure in the Article to recommend.

There was a requested made by Delahunty for Miller to get all the emails into the public record.

The School Warrant articles were then gone over line by line by Kimball.

Line 1100-Regular Education--recommended a deduction of tuition. School Board recommended \$4,177.473; Budget Committee Recommended \$4,106.964 with a reduction of \$70,506. An average of the last 6 years was taken and divided by 1/6 for 6 students. This number set as of October's enrollment. Projection over current year's enrollment shows students

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leaving district over the school year. School Board wanted to leave the money in even with history of children leaving the district.

What happens to money Neil Rowland asked? Pinkham stated that it is returned to the District as it has in the past years.

Line 1200 Special Education-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$1,464.586.

Line 1300 Vocational Education-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended 0.

Line 1400-Other Program-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$46,790.

Line 2110 Attendance-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$1.00

Line 2120-Guidance-there was no change. Both the School Board and Budget Committee recommended \$124,730.

Line 2130-Health-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$40,969.

Line 2140-Psychological-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$77,238.

Line 2150-Speech & Audiology-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$155.278.

Line 2160- Physical & Occupational-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$121,801.

Line 2210-Improvement of Instruction. The School Board recommended \$70,630 and the Budget Committee recommended \$40.630.

Line 2220-Educational Media. The School Board recommended \$184,312. and the Budget Committee recommended \$174,312.

Line 2310-School Board-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$68,449.

Line 2320-Offices of Superintendent-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$202,000.

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Line 2330-Special Education Administration-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$109,363.

Line 2400-School Administration-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$259,573.

Line 2600-Operation of Plant-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$392,768.

Line 2700-Student Transportation-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$441,038.

Line 2900-Support Benefits-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$254,273.

Line 4000-Facilities-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$ 0.

Line 5100 Debt Service-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$379,750.

Line 3100-Food Service-there was no change. Both the School Board and the Budget Committee recommended \$107,521.

Total appropriations were the School Board recommendation of \$8,678,542. and the Budget Committee recommendation of \$8,568,033.

Kimball asked if the public had any further questions of the School Board or the Budget Committee. Neil Rowland asked what the breakdown in cost of regular tuition vs special education figure was. The Superintendent's office will supply all this breakdown information for him and he was given how to contact the Superintendent's office.

Pinkham said with there being no more questions to make a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. This motion was made by Wood and seconded by Kimball.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Budget Committee Secretary